

Claims

1. A system, comprising:
a master device; and
a slave device coupled to the master device via a serial interface, the slave device is configurable by the master device to operate in multiple modes wherein each mode is associated with a command length that differs between modes.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the master device configures the slave device to operate in the multiple modes using an initialization command having a length that is greater than the command lengths associated with the multiple modes.
3. The system of claim 1 wherein the master device comprises a processor of a battery operated electronic device.
4. The system of claim 1 wherein the slave device comprises a wireless LAN adapter, the wireless LAN adapter couples to an antenna that transmits and receives wireless signals according to a wireless protocol.
5. The system of claim 1 wherein commands associated with the command length comprises read/write commands.
6. The system of claim 1 wherein the master and slave devices implement indirect memory accesses during at least one of the multiple modes.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein the serial interface comprises a serial peripheral interface (SPI).
8. A portable device, comprising:
a processor;
a slave device couple to the processor; and
a battery coupled to the processor and the slave device, the battery is operable to provide power to the processor and the slave device,
wherein the processor and the slave device are configurable to communicate in multiple modes, each mode being associated with a different read/write command length.
9. The portable device of claim 8 wherein each read/write command comprises a read/write field, a data length field, and an address field.
10. The portable device of claim 8 wherein one of the multiple modes comprises to a low power compatible mode that implements a command length having fewer bits than another of the multiple modes.
11. The portable device of claim 10 wherein the processor and the slave device are configured to communicate in the low power compatible mode when only the battery provides power to the processor and the slave device.

12. The portable device of claim 10 wherein the processor and the slave device are configured to communicate in the low power compatible mode when the battery has less than a predetermined threshold amount of power available to power the processor and the slave device.
13. A method, comprising:
determining if a power consumption parameter of a device exists;
configuring a device to interpret read/write commands having a non-reduced length; and
configuring the device to interpret read/write commands having a reduced length if the power consumption parameter exists.
14. The method of claim 13 wherein the non-reduced length comprises 32-bits.
15. The method of claim 14 wherein the reduced length comprises 16-bits.
16. The method of claim 13 further comprising performing functions associated with a wireless communication protocol in response to an interpretation of the read/write commands.
17. The method of claim 13 wherein the power consumption parameter comprises the device being powered by a battery

18. The method of claim 13 wherein the power consumption parameter comprises a battery powering the device having less than a predetermined threshold amount of available power.

19. A system, comprising:

a first device;

a second device coupled to the first device;

means for configuring the second device in a first mode associated with commands having a non-reduced length; and

means for configuring the second device in a second mode associated with commands having a reduced length.

20. The system of claim 19 further comprising means for determining when to configure the second device in the first and second modes.

21. The system of claim 19 wherein the means for configuring the second device in the first and second modes comprises a Secure Digital Input/Output (SDIO) command transmitted from the first device to the second device.